

EARTH DAY: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

SUPPORTING ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SOCIAL HEALTH AND VITALITY

RESOURCE TOOLKIT FOR AMERICAN SPACES

This Resource Toolkit is designed for programming at American Spaces to create a greater awareness of the issues and solutions in environmental sustainability.



HOST A FILM SCREENING

Film screenings provide opportunities for rich storytelling and engaging follow-up discussion for participants to relate the film to their own lives and experiences.

Movie kits and films are accessible through Kanopy, MPLC agreement, and some are freely available online. [Learn more about how to host a film screening for American Spaces.](#)

SUGGESTED FILMS

[Climate Emergency: Feedback Loops](#)
[Educational Materials](#)

[Chasing Coral](#)
[Planning Guide](#)

[Landfill Harmonic](#)
[Educational Materials](#)

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Everything we need to survive and live healthy lives depends on our natural environment. Environmental sustainability is careful and responsible human interaction with natural resources to conserve and protect them and their ecosystems for present and future generations. This is achieved through attention to environmental health, social equity and economic vitality.

Environmental protection and sustainability are essential for a healthy and productive life. The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to achieving a carbon pollution-free power sector by 2035, putting the United States on an irreversible path to a net-zero-emissions economy by 2050.

Major environmental issues that affect us all include pollution, overpopulation, waste disposal, ocean acidification, loss of biodiversity, deforestation, overfishing, ozone layer depletion, nonrenewable energy, public health issues, and climate change.

This toolkit provides resources to conduct in-person and virtual programs around these issues with selected resources for environmental sustainability programming.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of STATE
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

SELECTED RESOURCES

FILMS & DISCUSSION GUIDES

- [2040](#)
- [Jane](#)

ARTICLES

- [Activists: Native people are best caretakers of the Amazon area](#)
- [Japanese companies use technology to fight food waste](#)
- [Kenyan makes cooking fuel from plant waste](#)
- [Ozone: Good up high, bad nearby](#)

TALKS

- [Can we solve climate change?](#)
- [The business logic of sustainability](#)
- [A healthy economy should be designed to thrive, not grow](#)

LESSON PLANS

- [Resiliency among the Salmon people in the Yukon Delta](#)
- [Using a workshop to raise awareness of the role of English in promoting sustainable development](#)
- [Walden, a game](#)

ONLINE COURSES

- [Nature Lab: Build Healthy Cities](#)
- [UNEP Global framework for a pollution-free planet](#)
- [CrashCourse: Ecology](#)

RELATED TOOLKITS

- [Air Quality Awareness Week](#)
- [Climate Change](#)

DIPLOMACY SIMULATIONS

- [Crisis in the Oceans](#)
- [Freshwater Crisis](#)

POSTERS & SIGNAGE

- [NASA Science Earth Day posters](#)
- [EarthDay.org promotional toolkits](#)

AMERICAN SPACES ESHOP

- [Environment Collection](#)



GENERAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the definition of sustainability and conservation? How can people protect and conserve our natural resources while also ensuring all people's basic needs are met?
- The [three pillars of sustainability](#) are economic, social, and environmental. How do all three work together to take care of the world for both present and future people?
- Think about the environment you live in. What are examples of environmental challenges that affect your life? How can they be improved or solved?
- We face many sustainability challenges that must be solved through international cooperation. What environmental challenge can your country help address?
- Who are the environmental conservation leaders in your community, country, or region?
- In what ways can you be an environmental conservation leader in your own community?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [ShareAmerica: Environment](#)
- [National Geographic: Lesson Plans and Study Resources](#)
- [Voices of America: Science & Technology](#)
- [National Park Service: Lesson Plans](#)
- [Environmental Protection Agency: Lesson Plans](#)
- [TED-Ed: Environmental Science](#)
- [edX: Climate Change Courses](#)
- [White House: National Climate Task Force](#)